

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5844
Noranne Nielsen
Mansfield Animal Control Officer

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, **HB 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

I am a registered voter in Mansfield, and I am an Animal Control Officer for the town of Mansfield since 1999.

The current tethering law 22-350a(c) is unenforceable, because “unreasonable time” is subjective and needs to be defined. This raised bill 5844 would prohibit dog tethering between 10PM and 6 AM, and also restrict it when the outside temp gets above 90 or below 32. This would be an excellent tool to actually enforce this law and make a difference in the lives of the dogs that live outside 24/7.

It is often hard enough to deal with owners who have an outside dog and they tell you the dog is taken off the chain on daily basis etc., while you know it’s not true.

I also think in general it’s a bad idea to leave a dog outside at night. The barking could wake neighbors up and the dog could get in contact with (rabid) wildlife. Also, hypothermia most likely sets in when the dog is sleeping and the temps are at it’s lowest.

I fully support HB 5844. ACOs need this to truly enforce 22-350a(c).

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

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